



City of Kingston
Conservation Advisory Council
420 Broadway
Kingston, NY 12401
(845) 331-1682 x. 7339

Monthly Meeting Minutes
City Hall Conference Room 1
October 13, 2010

Roll Call: 6:39 pm

In attendance:

Board Members

Julie Noble (Chair)
Felipa Gaudet (Secretary)
Sophie Dolamore
Elizabeth Higgins
Gregg Swanzey
Allison Taylor

Guests:

Casey Schwarz

Public Comment: none

Approval of Minutes

Gregg made a motion to approve the September meeting minutes. Liz second. All in favor.

Old Business

1. Committee Reports:
 - a. Climate Pledge Subcommittee
 - i. On September 23rd, Casey Schwarz, Melissa Everett, Julie Noble, Valeria Gheorghiu, Gregg Swanzey, all met to discuss the formation of the pledge subcommittees; Five subcommittees were formed, each with a chair:
 1. Green Innovation, Led by Melissa Everett, Assisted by Valeria
 2. Planning for Climate Change: Emilie Hauser
 3. Land Use – Gregg Swanzey and Guy Kempe
 4. Energy – Valeria Gheorghiu and Casey Schwarz
 5. Recycling and Solid Waste – Julie Noble and Steve Noble

- ii. Groups will have meetings in October and will choose representatives for the task forces. One task force meeting will be scheduled prior to the climate analyst position being filled. Members discussed how to get more people involved, review action plans from other municipalities to develop scope of Kingston's Climate Action Plan.
 - iii. Green Innovation and Climate Change will hold meeting on October 26th.
 - iv. Gregg reported that Jennifer Schwartz-Berky will be hosting a meeting with the Bard students on October 19th. He and Guy will attend the meeting to learn how their research will assist with the goals in the Land Use portion of the pledge. Julie will attend a meeting with Jennifer on October 14th about the Bard students' work as well.
 - v. The climate analyst position was discussed. The person in this position will go to all the subcommittee meetings and coordinate the efforts of the pledge.
- b. City Animal Code Review Committee
 - i. Allison found a flyer in her neighborhood warning about a man who reportedly traps cats in his back yard and kills them.
 - ii. Julie shared that a city employee found a dead cat and brought it to the SPCA for an autopsy. A neighbor saw the city employee with the cat and thought that the employee killed the cat.
 - iii. Liz raised the question regarding whether our CAC should get involved with animal legislation, as the animals are people's pets and are not directly related to the mission of our council.
 - iv. Julie suggested that we create one guideline for the regulation of all animals, rather than addressing each one at a time.
 - v. Gregg suggested that we address animals within a comprehensive plan for the land use for the city.
 - vi. Gregg and Julie raised the point that we were sought to make a recommendation regarding these issues by members of the Common Council and the Building Department.
 - vii. Allison questioned whether we were too visible as the CAC after making the recommendations, as members went to the meetings and spoke publicly about our recommendations about cats.
 - viii. Felipa shared that our recommendations were changed through the Laws and Rules Committee and we were cited as the source of the legislation. She suggested we state our recommendations on our website, etc so that they will not be misrepresented.
 - ix. Liz suggested we state that we are willing to work on these issues if they pertain to conservation. She stated that chickens are not sustainable or 'green', as their food grain travels from distant locations.
 - x. Allison shared her concern that if we don't offer guidelines then chickens may be banned.
 - xi. Discussion was raised about the types of the complaints.
 - xii. Our CAC will defer this to Corporation Council for interpretation of the existing law, as the complaints are regarding the noise and that is currently legislated.
- c. Green Development Guidelines Committee
 - i. Planning Board and Planning Department wants the CAC to develop guidelines for Green Building that are recommendations, but not requirements to build within Kingston.
 - ii. Planning Board has a 23 point checklist of items that they reference when a building proposal is reviewed.
 - iii. Gregg suggested that we can provide the research about why these recommendations are important and can be informative and beneficial to the community and the developer.

This plan would be beneficial for the Planning Board, as it would provide the members with important information.

2. Website/Social Media update
 - a. Sophie shared that she needs more people to get the word out about the facebook site to “Like” the site.
 - b. Allison will get the word out through her community on facebook.
 - c. Felipa has not had an opportunity to work on the website and will try to by the next CAC meeting. Julie set a goal of completing work on the website by the end of the year.

New Business

1. Trainings/Professional Development
 - a. Julie shared the importance of professional development for our members.
 - b. Liz shared an opportunity for professional development at Bellaeyre on May 7th – Ashokan Watershed Conference.
2. Emerald Ash Borer Study
 - a. Emerald Ash Borer has been found on a tree near Kingston Point
 - b. Community members will need to be informed about the insect and infestation. Steve Noble is the city employee in charge of addressing this issue. Ash tree inventory is on the City of Kingston website. Sophie will link to it for facebook page.
3. Street Light Inventory
 - a. Steve Noble is in charge of street light inventory to address cost and effectiveness of the lights. He will need volunteers to assist with the inventory. Julie will send information regarding how we can assist.
 - b. Casey shared information about LED lights that are being used for street lighting.
 - c. Liz shared about a study regarding the effectiveness of lighting.

Announcements/Communications:

1. Next regular Monthly Board Meeting: November 10, 2010
2. Gregg and Julie attended Hudson River Estuary Action Meeting at the Maritime Museum. She brought information to share.
3. Julie will not be able to attend the February meeting and will need someone to chair the meeting. She also may need someone to possibly chair January and/or March, depending on how things go time wise with her maternity leave
4. Gregg shared about Kingston Land Trust’s proposal for a grant for a feasibility study regarding connecting the rail trails and trolley lines and making them ready for walking and biking.

Liaison Meeting Reports

1. Sophie went to the Planning Board Meeting in September.
2. Felipa went to the Planning Board Meeting for October. She shared the notes with the group via e-mail.

Liz made a motion to adjourn. Allison second. All in favor.

Adjournment: 8:41pm